

Serial No.: 09/829,237

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 15, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 7, 14, 15, 17, and 20 are amended herein. Claims 2 and 16 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-15, and 17-25 are pending.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants are in agreement with the content of the Interview Summary mailed by the Examiner on September 2, 2005, and submit that no separate or additional record of the substance of the August 31, 2005 interview is necessary.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 3, 7-9, 14, 16, 17, and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-13, 15, 18, 19, 23, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shloss (US 5,425,032).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 1, rather than cancelled claim 2.

Claims 7 and 14, which the Examiner indicates contain allowable subject matter, are each amended into independent form.

Claim 15 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 16. Claim 16 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 15, rather than cancelled claim 16.

Claim 20, which the Examiner indicates contains allowable subject matter, is amended into independent form.

Each independent claim now contains subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition

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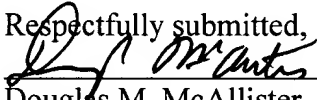
for immediate allowance.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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